

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO AMEMBASSY HELSINKI IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1500

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

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SUBJECT: SEC/VISIT: EUROPEAN PRESS COVERAGE

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FOR BRAY

1. SUMMARY: FRENCH PRESS, IN CURTAIN-RAISING COMMENT JULY 3 ON HELSINKI, HAD NO ILLUSIONS THAT CONFERENCE REPRESENTS UNMIXED BLESSING FOR WEST, OR FOR EUROPE IN PARTICULAR. WHILE A TELEVISION COMMENTATOR SPOKE OF "GUARDED OPTIMISM" ABOUT RESULTS, AND COMMUNIST HUMANITE HAILED IT AS "SUCCESS FOR ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD " SEVERAL OTHER SAW FAILIAR SPECTRE OF SUPERPOWER HEGEMONY AS ONE POSSIBLE RESULT, AND THERE WAS PESSIMISM THAT "HUMAN CONTACTS" OBJECTIVE HAS ANY REAL PROSPECT OF SUCCESS. END SUMMARY.

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2. IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMMENT, LEFTIST COMBAT RECALLED THEORY THAT MOSCOW WANTS PEACH IN WEST IN ORDER TO MOVE MOST OF ITS TROOPS TO CHINESE FRONTIER -- AN ANALYSIS, PAPER SAID, THAT SHOULD REASSURE EUROPEANS BUT WHICH IS DENIED BY FACTS. "SOVIETS CONTINUE DEVELOPING HEIR MILITARY POWER. WHILE THE WEST, UNDERMINED BY INFLATION AND BUDGETARY DEFICIT, THINKS ONLY OF REDUCING ITS ARMIES." THIS PLAYS INTO SOVIET HANDS, EDITORIAL SAID, BY HANDING MOSCOW IN ADVANCE WHAT OTHERWISE MIGHT TAKE IT LONG MONTHS OF NEGOTIATIONS, IN WHICH SOVIETS WOULD BE FORCED TO MAKE CONCESSIONS. COMBAT CONTINUED : "PRESCENCE OF ALL EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AT TALKS SHOULD NOT, EITHER, CREATE ILLUSIONS ABOUT REAL NATURE OF THE MEETING: IT IS IN DANGER OF BEING DOMINATED BY THE DIALOGUE OF THE SUPERPOWERS. THUS, WE SEE TWO COMPLEMENTARY DANGERS. ON ONE HAND, WASHINGTON AND MOSCOW MIGHT BE DECIDING FOR EUROPE; AND ON THE OTHER, THEIR DECISIONS COULD MEAN A NEUTRALIZATION OF THE CONTINENT AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE DIVISIONS WHICH DISFIGURE IT."

3 ON INSIDE PAGE IN MODERATE FIGUARO, ROBERT LACONTRE, MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT, WROTE: "AMERICA IS NOW PLAING BILATERALLY WITH THE SOVIET UNION A GAME IT BELIEVES PROFITABLE, WHILE EUROPEANS, WHO TEND TO LOWER THEIR GUARD IN SUCH A EUPHORIC DETENTE ATMOSPHERE, PERCEIVE SUDDENLY AND A BIT LATE THAT THEY ARE ABOUT TO BE LET GO BY THEIR BIG PROTECTOR." LACONTRE FEELS CSCE WILL RESTRAIN ATTEMPTS AT INDEPENDENCE BY NINE, WHILE AT SAME TIME "RUSSIANS AND AMERICANS WILL BE ABLE TO SLOW DOWN CREATION OF EUROPEAN POLITICAL UNITY AROUND THE SOLID CORE WHICH COMMON MRKET CONSTITUTES. THAT'S WHY THIS MEETING DOES NOT HAVE ONLY ADVANTAGES." LACONTRE SUGGESTED THAT REAL SECURITY QUESTIONS REMAIN TO BE SETTLED IN MBFR AND SALT, AND THAT IT APPEARS EVER MORE CLEARLY THAT "EUROPE OWES ITS TRANQUILITY ONLY TO GOOD WILL AND DETENTE OF SUPERPOWERS." AS FOR DANISH PROJECT/... OF "HUMAN CONTACTS", HE PREDICTED CSCE WILL PRODUCE RECOMMENDATIONS "AS VAGUE AS THEY WILL BE INEFFECTIVE. IT IS NOT TOMORROW THAT FIGARO WILL BE FREELY SOLD AT SOVIET NEWSTANDS, AS PRAVDA IS IN FRANCE." OVERALL, SAID LACONTRE, GROMYKO WILL PRESIDE AT CSCE AS " UNCONTESTED LEADEER OF PRO-SOVIET MARXIST CAMP MORE MONOLITHIC THAN EVER, FACING A WESTERN DIVERSITY UNDERMINED BY DIFFERENCES AND CONTRADICTIONS".

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4. RIGHIST AURORE'S YVES BENOIT, ON AN INSIDE PAGE, SAID MOSCOW, TO GET CSCE, HAD TO ACCEPT "COMPROMISE ON BERLIN, THE OPENING OF NEGOTIATIONS ON DISARMAMENT (SALT), AND A CSCE AGENDA ITEM ON (MOVEMENTS OF PEOPLE AND IDEAS). IN EXCHANGE, THE KREMLIN INTENDS TO IMPOSE ON EVERYBODY THE OFFICIAL RECOGNITION OF ITS EAST EUROPEAN EMPIRE, IN THE TYPICALLY COMMUNIST JARGON THAT SPEAKS WITH CANDOR ABOUT NON-INTERFERENCE IN AFFAIRS OF OTHER COUNTRIES... IT CANNOT BE OVERLOOKED THAT THE CHIEF GUARANTOR OF

THE AGREEMENTS TO BE MADE IS FOREIGN TO EUROPE: THE UNITED STATES..."

5. FINANCIAL LES ECHOS, IN BACK-PAGE COMMENT, DESCRIBED CSCE AS "VAST DIPLOMATIC CONFRONTATION OF OPENLY-PROCLAIMED HOPES AND STILL-LATENT MUTUAL DISTRUST" AND ADDED "PRESSIMISTS WILL NOT FAIL TO SAY WESTERN EUROPE IS GETTING INTO A DANGEROUS ADVENTURE WHICH CAN ONLY BENEFIT THE EAST... WHILE OPTIMISTS WILL REPLY THAT THE PROOF WILL BE IN THE PUDDING, AND THAT BREZHNEV AFTER ALL HAS PUT ALL HIS AUTHORITY ON THE LINE, NOT WITHOUT RISK... IF CSCE IS A SUCCESS, THE LAST ACT WOULD BE ESPECIALLY SPECTACULAR -- AN EAST-WEST SUPER-SUMMIT. BUT MIGHT IT ALSO BE A WAY OF GETTING THE OTHERS TO SWALLOW RUSSIAN-AMERICAN CONDOMINIUM?"

IRWIN

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